

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, comprising:

- a part that receives a personal certificate;
- a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;
- a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and
- a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified.

2. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 1, wherein the at least one of the predetermined elements is an organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name.

3. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined elements are an organizational unit name of one hierarchy allocated for representing a project name and a part of a common name allocated for representing a purpose of operation.

4. A web server computer system comprising:

- a part that receives a personal certificate;
- a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;
- a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the received personal certificate is successfully verified.

5. A web server computer system comprising:

a part that receives a personal certificate;

a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

a part that allocates a session identifier when the received personal certificate is successfully verified;

a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate;

a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the received personal certificate is successfully verified; and

a part that stores the determined access right associated with the session identifier.

6. The web server computer system according to claim 5, wherein the at least one of the predetermined elements is an organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name.

7. The web server computer system according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined elements are an organizational unit name of one hierarchy allocated for representing a project name and a part of a common name allocated for representing a purpose of operation.

8. An apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, which receives a personal certificate in which a predetermined element of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder of the certificate belongs and an attribute other than a

personal ID so as to process the subject name, the apparatus comprising:

a part that receives the personal certificate;

a part that extracts a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

a part that determines an access right at least based on an organization to which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID represented by a value of the predetermined element.

9. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents that the holder of the certificate is not a member of an organization represented by the organization name and that the holder cooperates with the organization.

10. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents a project name in which the holder takes part.

11. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents a cooperating organization name which cooperates with an organization represented by the organization name and to which the holder belongs.

12. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents a type of operation in which the holder takes part.

13. The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein a common name in the

subject name represents a type of operation in which the holder takes part.

14. An apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, comprising:

- a part that receives a personal certificate;

- a part that extracts a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

- a part that determines an access right based on a value of the predetermined element.

15. A method for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a personal certificate;

- verifying the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

- extracting at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

- determining an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified.

16. A method for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, which receives a personal certificate in which a predetermined element of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder of the personal certificate belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID so as to process the subject name, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving the personal certificate;

- extracting a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

- determining an access right at least based on an organization to

which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID represented by a value of the predetermined element.

17. A storage medium readable by a computer; the storage medium storing a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a function for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, the function comprising the steps of:

receiving a personal certificate;

verifying the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

extracting at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

determining an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified.

18. A storage medium readable by a computer, the storage medium storing a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a function for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, which receives a personal certificate in which a predetermined element of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder of the personal certificate belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID so as to process the subject name, the function comprising the steps of:

receiving the personal certificate;

extracting a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

determining an access right at least based on an organization to which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID represented by a value of the predetermined element.

19. The storage medium according to claim 18, wherein a personal certificate in which at least one of an organizational unit name and a common name of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID are stored.

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